

SPRING 2024

# Sheet Metal Journal

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British Columbia

Journal



## SMACNA-BC AND SMART REPRESENT AT PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Also in this Issue:

**SMITH SHEET METAL WORKS: UBC SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING**

**PLAN FOR DISASTER AND YOU MIGHT JUST SURVIVE ONE**

**CLOUD ACCOUNTING**

**SMACNA-BC AGM & CONFERENCE WRAP-UP**

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Official Journal of Record for SMACNA-BC



# PROMOTING GROWTH AND STABILITY IN OUR INDUSTRY

Formed in 1969, the British Columbia Sheet Metal Association (SMACNA-BC) was the first international chapter of the Sheet Metal & Air-conditioning Contractors National Association (SMACNA). Founded in 1934, SMACNA traces its history to the National Association of Sheet Metal Contractors established in 1910, and has 2,300 members worldwide.

SMACNA-BC is a member-driven association representing unionized sheet metal contractors in the Mainland of BC, and suppliers to our industry. It promotes the growth and stability of the members and industry.

## OUR MANDATE

- To improve the financial stability and business conditions of the sheet metal industry, and to develop and promote methods to improve managerial proficiency
- To improve quality, efficiency and productivity of this industry, and to implement high standards of work
- To establish and maintain high ethical standards of conduct between members of the Association, and between members and owners, architects, engineers, other contractors, and the public
- To promote harmony in labour relations
- To study and help in the development and enforcement of governmental codes and regulations, and such legislation as may be necessary for the best interest of the public and the sheet metal industry
- To exchange technical, professional, and educational information with other contractor associations in the sheet metal industry and its allied trades in Canada and other countries
- To affiliate as a Chapter with the Sheet Metal & Air-conditioning Contractors National Association, Inc.

BC Sheet Metal Association (SMACNA-BC) • Executive Director: Jeremy Hallman

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## SPRING AT SMACNA-BC

Spring has been busy around the SMACNA-BC office. Leanne put countless hours into planning for our 55th Annual AGM & Convention at the Penticton Lakeside Resort, which was an overwhelming success. She planned some great activities, from golf and wine tours to a bike tour and a climbing wall. This was our best attended AGM & Convention to date, and we are very grateful for our sponsors, who made the event the success that it was.

### 2024–2025 Board of Directors

Our board of director elections took place at the AGM and saw two incumbent board members re-elected and one new director joining the roster. Our 2024–2025 board members are:

- **President:** Mark McLaren, Ridge Sheet Metal
- **President elect/director:** Al Benning, Ames Metal Fabricators 82 Ltd.
- **Past-president/Secretary-treasurer:** Mark Kuelle, Austin Metal Fabricators
- **Directors:** Phil McDonald, Summit Sheet Metal (re-elected), Aaron Smith, Smith Sheet Metal (re-elected); Dan Taillefer, Viaduct Sheet Metal; Paul Charbonneau, Cascade Metal Design; Angelo Paris, Apollo Sheet Metal; and Dave Brown, Vets Sheet Metal Ltd. (elected)
- **Northern BC Regional Chair:** Brad Popoff, Equity Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
- **Executive Director:** Jeremy Hallman

### Looking Ahead

Economically, it's starting to look like we may accomplish the "soft landing" and not fall into a recession as was thought. At one point it looked like interest rates may curb projects and bring the economy to a crawl, but it appears that this hasn't been the case. Overall, inflation has been steadily decreasing and there is talk of a possible interest rate drop in Q2 or Q3 of this year. Time will tell but we are cautiously optimistic.

### Dinner Meetings

We recently held two dinner meetings in January and March. Our January 18 speaker was Katie McFadden from Armacell Canada. Unfortunately, due to weather, her flight was cancelled but the group at Armacell didn't miss a beat and provided the presentation via Teams, which was very well received. Despite the snow that night, 35 of the 45 registered guests, braved the elements and attended the meeting. Congratulations to Martin Rachel of Crosstown Metal Industries who won the custom knife prize package. A special thank you to Rob Nofield of Crossroads C&I who also provided support throughout the evening. See page 21 for Katie's article on choosing the right insulation for duct efficiency.

Our March 21 speaker was Amy Duncan from DMCL Chartered Professional Accountants. She provided a brief overview of



Jeremy Hallman,  
Executive Director, SMACNA-BC

the 2024 tax incentives, with a focus on contractors. Amy also has an article in this issue. See page 20 where she talks about the benefit of cloud accounting. Congratulations to Kent Van Heuveln of Boston Sheet Metal Ltd. for winning the Whitecaps tickets vs Austin FC. Thank you to Peter Sung from Equipco Ltd. for providing this generous prize.

Our next dinner meeting was scheduled for April 18 and featured Mike Bailey of Mestek Machinery out of Cumming, Georgia. He spoke about some of the new sheet metal equipment available and industry trends that he is seeing. We are hoping Mike will contribute an article to our summer issue, so watch for that in August.

If you have any ideas for future dinner meetings, please contact Jeremy Hallman at the SMACNA-BC office.

### SMACNA Inc Annual Convention

Mark your calendars to join us at the JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, California, for the 2024 SMACNA Annual Convention. Registration for the October 27–30 event opened on April 23.

Currently, information online is somewhat limited, but some details are below. Please check back on the convention link at [smacna.org](http://smacna.org) for more details.

- Monday PAC Fundraiser has been replaced with a Beatles tribute band along with a selection of desserts.
- College of Fellows golf tournament
- (NEW) Pickle ball tournament

We encourage members to take advantage of the early registration discount. Please contact the SMACNA-BC office if you have any questions.

### Welcome new SMACNA-BC Contractor members

- Kendall HVAC Ltd. [kendall-hvac.com/back-to-home-page](http://kendall-hvac.com/back-to-home-page)
- CrimsonRidge Sheet Metal Inc.
- Rocky Point Commercial HVAC Inc. [rpchvac.com](http://rpchvac.com)
- Walker Sheet Metal Ltd. [walkersheetmetal.com](http://walkersheetmetal.com)

### Welcome new SMACNA-BC Associate members

- Raider Hansen [raiderhansen.com](http://raiderhansen.com)
- Master Group [master.ca/consumer/hvac](http://master.ca/consumer/hvac) ■

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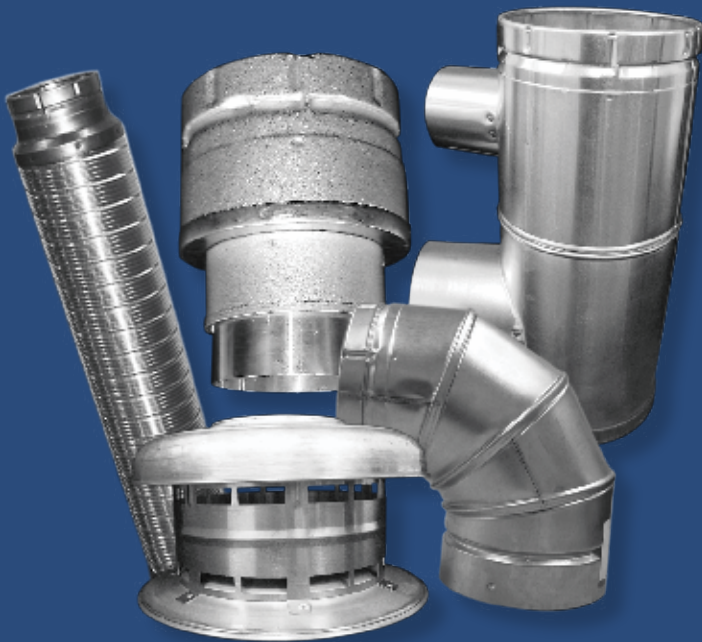


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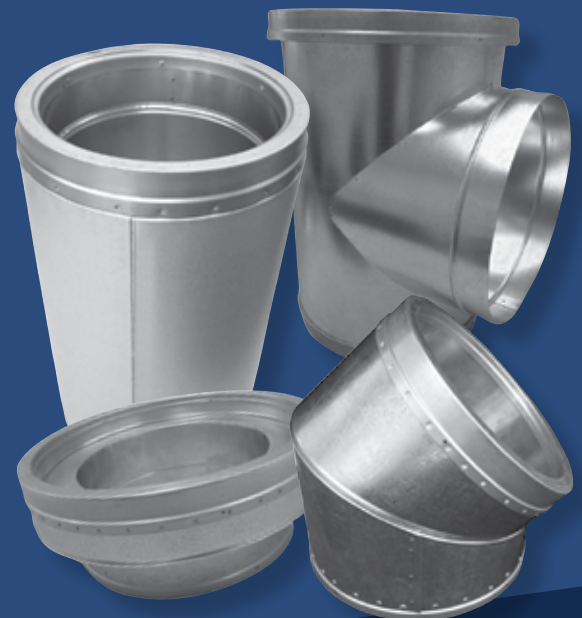
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## BCICA GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER AND LUNG HEALTH CHECK

Several SMACNA-BC members attended the BC Insulation Contractors' Association annual golf tournament fundraiser for mesothelioma in May. This event is hosted to help raise awareness and funds for mesothelioma research.

Mesothelioma is an aggressive form of cancer caused primarily from exposure to asbestos. The impact on affected individuals in the insulation industry and their families is profound.

The BCICA is proud to have raised over \$550,000 to date for the Western Canada Mesothelioma Fund at BC Cancer. In fact, the BCICA was instrumental in connecting with Dr. Stephen Lam at BC Cancer and funding the first pre-screening program for lung cancer in all of North America.

The golf tournament continues to be the main funder for this program and continues to raise awareness and funds for groundbreaking research. This year's tournament raised \$115,000 for the program.

Dr. Lam and Dr. Renelle Meyers are conducting a Lung Health Check Pilot program using low dose CT scans to screen eligible individuals for lung cancer.

If you are between the ages 45-74 (women) or 50-74 (men) and have never vaped or smoked more than 100 cigarettes in your life time, please scan the QR code to check your eligibility for this study. ■



**Get involved! Scan the QR Code to check your eligibility for the Lung Health Check Pilot Program.**

### Get the Best in the Business Working for You. Reach out to SMACNA-BC Membership Today.



SMACNA-BC contractors demonstrate unmatched technical and managerial expertise enhanced by an exceptionally skilled and professional workforce. In fact, SMACNA-BC contractors employ only Red Seal certified sheet metal journeypersons and registered apprentices, and they work exclusively with reputable suppliers to secure the highest quality materials and services. SMACNA-BC is also the ultimate source for standards-based products and services, including technical manuals, guidelines, and consultancy. That means when you hire a SMACNA-BC contractor or buy from an affiliated supplier, you are building your project's sheet metal scope to North America's highest professional standards.

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- Allied Blower & Sheet Metal Ltd.
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- Apollo Sheet Metal Ltd.
- Austin Metal Fabricators L.P.
- Boston Sheet Metal Ltd.
- CC Industries (2021) Ltd.
- Cascade Metal Design Ltd.
- Century Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
- City Sheet Metal (2022) Ltd.
- CrimsonRidge Sheet Metal Inc.
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- Downtown Custom Metal Works Ltd.
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- SPI Canada Distribution Inc.
- Walker Sheet Metal Ltd
- Wm. P. Somerville

Scan the QR code below for a complete list of member contact information or visit [www.smacna-bc.org](http://www.smacna-bc.org)



## BUILDERS LIFE TALENTCENTRAL A NEW RESOURCE FOR CONSTRUCTION LABOUR FROM BC CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

The BC Construction Association (BCCA) has launched a new online job board tailored for the construction industry, which allows job seekers to be efficiently matched with employers.

Builders Life TalentCentral eases the hiring process by offering BC construction employers the ability to post job openings and connect with talent, while giving job seekers the ability to create a profile and access career opportunities. All construction industry job openings, from entry-level to executive roles, can be posted to Builders Life TalentCentral.

Features for employers include:

- The ability to scan job seeker profiles and resumes.
- In-platform direct messaging.
- Additional fee-based recruitment support services.

For a limited time, Builders Life TalentCentral is free to all construction sector employers. Job postings and access will remain free for those who are integrated members of BCCA's partner Regional Construction Associations (NRCA, SICA, VICA and VRCA).

Builders Life TalentCentral is a free tool for job seekers.

Features for job seekers include:

- The ability to create a talent profile and upload a resume.
- Search tools allowing them to filter job postings by trade, location, level of experience, wage and more.
- In-platform direct messaging.
- The ability to save job posts for future reference.
- MyBuilders Life rewards, including access to free Builders Code training.

“BC’s construction needs are urgent and require action,” says Chris Atchison, BCCA President. “We continue to do everything we can to help address the province’s severe workforce shortage. TalentCentral leverages the overwhelming response we received to our recent Builders Life ad campaign. Construction employers will immediately benefit from this new and efficient way to build the teams they need, in order to deliver the construction projects British Columbians need.”

Read more at [bccasn.com](http://bccasn.com). Employers and job seekers wishing to access the Builders Life TalentCentral can visit [talentcentral.ca](http://talentcentral.ca). ■

## MINDS AT WORK MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FROM BC CONSTRUCTION SAFETY IS LIVE

The BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA) has launched a workplace mental health training program., which is delivered in two parts.

Part One, called Every Mind Matters at Work – For Construction, is a six-module overview of workplace mental health. It comprises six modules covering an introduction, the difference between mental health and mental fitness, the Indigenous mental health model, common mental health conditions at work, finding mental health resources, and dealing with being exposed to distressing scenarios at work.

Part Two, called Managing Minds at Work – In Construction, is for supervisors and managers. It looks at legislation covering the supervision and management of workplace mental health and the roles and responsibilities of supervisors and managers, common indicators of a potential mental health issue, strategies and actions for responding to potential mental health issues, “difficult conversations” about mental health, and strategies to support and enhance organizational mental health.

Workshops will be held in July and August in Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, Kelowna, Prince George, and Fort St. John. Visit [bccsa.ca](http://bccsa.ca) to learn more.

News continued on page 23

### SMACNA-BC / SMART Local 280 Partnership



Left: Mark McLaren, Ridge Sheet Metal Co., SMACNA-BC President.  
Right: Jud Martell, Local Union No. 280 President.



**Labour & Management**  
**“Embracing the Challenge”**

- B. Flaherty, Cornell University, Syracuse, N.Y.

# SMACNA-BC AGM AND CONVENTION

## SMACNA-BC VISITS PENTICTON

SMACNA-BC saw record attendance at the 2024 annual convention in Penticton, BC. From the Amazing Metal Race Fun Night to rock climbing, wine tasting, biking, and golfing, delegates has an amazing time unwinding in the sunshine. The AGM brought board re-elections and sectional reports, and the final evening's formal event was a night to remember.

Big thanks to the generous sponsors without whom this event wouldn't be possible. And many thanks to Leanne Husdon for her planning, organizing, and troubleshooting the AGM and Convention's many moving parts.

We look forward to seeing you in May 2025 at the Westin Resort & Spa in Whistler on May 8-10! ■







**Scan the QR code to view all the photos from the convention:  
Gallery password: Pn4anBCcyS • PIN: 7138**



# Smith Sheet Metal Works at UBC School of Biomedical Engineering

By Jessica Kirby • Photos courtesy of Patkau Architects + Smith Sheet Metal

## Smith Sheet Metal Works Ltd. is on a mission.

Over the past year, the 10,000-square-foot fabrication shop in Port Coquitlam has more than doubled its size in both volume and labour, taking on larger, more complex projects than the small-sized company ever has before.

“We’ve always been a lesser-known contractor, but because of our high construction standards, never-cutting-corners mentality, ethics, and various changes in our local industry, there have been more direct requests for our team lately,” says owner Aaron Smith. “We have decided this is a good time to embrace that and roll with it because the opportunity is there.”

Smith is seizing every opportunity, including succession planning, since his son, Jacob, joined the business a year and a half ago and has started his apprenticeship.

“He is keen to follow in our family tradition and he is doing it the right way, in the trenches, learning the most difficult parts



of the job and working his way up,” Smith says. “He will be a fourth-generation sheet metal worker, and that is also fuelling change in our company.”

Part of this growth was winning the company’s largest and most complex project to date: UBC School of Biomedical Engineering (UBC SBME). The school brings together more than 500 students annually who were previously scattered across 24 buildings on UBC’s Vancouver campus. The new,



“We were a company of 25-27 people, but we had some luck with picking up skilled labour and that made fulfilling the requirements a lot easier. Now we are a company of 50 and still growing.”

five-storey, 156,400-square-foot, purpose-built facility has a \$139.4 million budget and includes classrooms and learning spaces on the lower floors, with research labs and spaces on the upper floors.

This project was different from anything Smith Sheet Metal has done before. The sheer volume of duct work and exhaust lines for the fume hoods, all stainless and welded, was immense.

Smith Sheet Metal’s \$5 million scope includes all of the metal work, including the galvanized ducting, ventilation, and stainless exhaust duct for the labs and clean rooms. The scope amounted to over 28,000 lbs of welded stainless steel and 220,000 lbs of galvanized steel. It started off with a three-year timeline that was later compressed into 18 months.

“The lab’s main exhaust lines are 40 inches in diameter running through the building from the basement and out to massive plume exhaust fans mounted to the roof,” Smith says. “The clean rooms had extremely high standards for indoor air quality and cleanliness and had to be pressure tested to extremely low leakage standards.”

“Because of that, we ended up needing 20 workers full-time on the site for a year,” Smith says. “We thought we would need ten. We were a company of 25–27 people, but we had some luck with picking up skilled labour and that made fulfilling the requirements a lot easier. Now we are a company of 50 and still growing.”

The project’s location in the middle of UBC’s Vancouver campus posed a few challenges, including the need to shuttle workers to the jobsite because there is a lack of parking. Deliveries have to be timed and coordinated, and shipping and receiving times were pre-planned.





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“Because it is a biomedical building there are also cleanliness requirements and restrictions on things like where you can eat,” Smith says.

These and other firsts pushed the company to exploit their own best resources—people and leadership—to take on this project, which is redefining the company’s future.

“We are technically still classified as a small company, so manufacturing the duct in our shop to these new levels while doubling our output of fabricated materials was a challenge,” Smith says. “One thing we had going for us is that we have a





stainless-steel division in our company through which we build a lot of food service products. Our team really pulled it together to continuously meet the demands of this high-paced schedule.”

That division routinely manufactures kitchen canopies, sinks, specialty tabling for restaurants, cutting tables, and cabinets. “Already having highly qualified stainless welding expertise in our shop made the lab requirements at UBC SBME an easy transition,” Smith says.

Another of the building’s showcase spaces is the mechanical room, located on the roof of the building. It houses four 110,000

cfm Scott Springfield air handlers and the main trunk ductwork is 120” x 96” in size.


“The ductwork in this mechanical room is impressive,” Smith says. “I have an amazing group of people working on this project.


“Larger companies are used to this kind of thing, but it is not something we usually see,” he adds. “Our team has embraced this project and done exceptionally well. We are ahead of schedule, on budget, and when the project is done, it will be a feather in our cap.” ■

## NOW HIRING




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# Plan for disaster

## and your business might just survive one

Brendan Talbot from Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC shares top tips for emergency planning that is tailored to your business needs.

By / Jessica Kirby

As a business owner, you're probably prepared for most things business-related: taking on new work, labour challenges, market fluctuations, maybe even succession planning. But what about emergencies? If you have a plan in place for earthquakes, floods, wildfires, or Mount Baker blowing its top, raise your hand ... Anyone?

"I don't think that businesses are generally prepared for emergencies, and those who are prepared are probably not prepared well enough," says Brendan Talbot, safety advisor - specialist, occupational hygienist, Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC. Talbot presented at a SMACNA-BC dinner meeting earlier this year, sharing a wealth of knowledge about how we are—and aren't—prepared for the worst.

Over the last five years, Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC has noticed an important trend. Despite general knowledge of the risks that come with not being prepared, business operators—and people in general—have largely failed to dedicate the time necessary to fully understand the impacts of climate emergencies and to develop response plans that sufficiently address them.

"The reoccurring wildfires—in particular those in 2021 and 2023—were big wake up calls for many people and businesses within the Interior," Talbot says. "However, it's not just businesses within the Interior that are not well prepared for climate crises. It's also those in the Lower Mainland, on Vancouver Island, and everywhere throughout BC, really."

As an example, how many within the Fraser Valley can say they were adequately prepared for the flooding of 2021?

It was after the wildfires in Kelowna that Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC members began to reach out to the association



Brendan Talbot, safety advisor-specialist, occupational hygienist, Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC.

looking for help with emergency response planning and training. Many were looking for help developing and implementing emergency response and business continuity plans, so that they could start conducting drills in advance of this year's wildfire season, Talbot says.

It is often the case that environmental emergencies begin to really hit home once they occur close to home and the reality of what a disaster could do to a business or home sinks in.

"Now is the time for business operators to build out their emergency response plans," Talbot says. "However, it's not just environmental incidents like wildfires, floods, and earthquakes but also avalanches, extreme winds, and extreme rain. Companies also need to prepare for unnatural emergencies like power outages, equipment failures, or, if you're near a railroad track or under a flight path, train derailments or plane crashes."

If that all sounds heavy, it's because it is—but there are steps business owners can take to get an emergency plan in place. “The number one thing to start with is a comprehensive risk assessment,” Talbot says. “I can't stress that enough.”

That means a thorough review of your business to determine what you may have on site that could cause an issue. Do you store hazardous materials? Is there a risk of a catastrophic chemical spill or could compressed gas be released? What are the implications should a natural gas leak or power outage occur? Consider lead-up events that may cause or contribute to that event and what the consequences might be.

“Through planning for relatively small events that may impact a room or building, one area of your facility, or even the entire facility, you're building a more robust and thorough response, which will help to control hazards during a bigger and more catastrophic emergency,” Talbot says. “So, start small.”

When performing the risk assessment, think of the worst-case scenario and consider your geographic location, the age and stability of your buildings, and when the last time your buildings were inspected.

“If you are near a river, what will you do if there is a flood or if the ground below you erodes?” Talbot asks. “In the Fraser



Valley, we also need to think about our plans if a volcano erupts. We are close to Mount Baker in Washington, and if it erupts, an intense environmental disaster could result for people in the immediate area and, depending on wind direction, could impact those in Abbotsford and Chilliwack.”

The next step is knowing your capabilities and being aware of what tools and resources you have access to or can access



All-Therm Insulation, Inc. is now a part of Specialty Products and Insulation! All of the products you rely on from both All Therm and SPI are now available under one roof. We are excited to continue providing our signature customer service across the US and Canada.



## About SPI

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## **BUILD YOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN**

Want to make sure your emergency response plan solid? Follow these three recommendations for building your plan's foundation, and reach out to Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC to tailor your plan for your business.

1. Practice your drills. If drills are not conducted frequently enough and people feel underprepared, they will naturally panic during an emergency. "When people don't know what to do, their capacity to make decisions will deteriorate and could leave the facility in a vulnerable state where additional hazards can be created both during and after an emergency passes," talbot says. During a drill, practice how to shut down equipment properly and how to exit the building safely.
2. Know the materials, hazardous or not, that are stored on-site and be aware of incompatibilities. For example, if you have a chemical storage room with more than one type of chemical and there's a leak or off-gassing, the reaction could be a fire or explosion and may even generate a noxious gas. "It's important to mindful of potential chemical-related incidents, as catastrophic emergencies, such as an earthquake, can cause secondary chemical spills and potential mixing," Talbot says. "One I come across frequently surrounds forklift battery leakage at a charging or filling station. The batteries contain sulphuric acid and if it happens to leak, are the appropriate PPE and spill kits available to clean it up?"
3. Dedicate staff to an emergency response team. When an emergency happens, the team members must assume the roles in lieu of their ordinary jobs; if the emergency response team knows their duties when an alarm-state occurs, the emergency response will be handled quickly, effectively, and efficiently. ■



quickly. For example, Talbot says, if there is a fire, every site or building will have some capability to fight a fire, however, some will have very significant fire suppression systems, while others do not. So, as you perform the risk assessment, consider how you can allocate budget towards building up those emergency response resources and procedures.

And whatever you do, don't overlook the importance of running emergency response drills regularly. It may not be practical to conduct an emergency response drill for every possible emergency, but Talbot recommends picking two each year.

If a business doesn't plan accordingly, the consequences can range from property damage to worker injury and even death, in the event inadequate resources exist or one's ability to respond is inadequately assessed.

Inadequate response to an emergency can affect a business's production capability, reputation, or long-term ability to operate, not to mention resulting in huge financial losses from which a company may not be able to recover.

"Essentially, inadequate planning leads to inadequate response, and during a time of emergency when challenges arise and unpredictability dominates, a well-constructed emergency response plan and comprehensive workforce training becomes invaluable," Talbot says.

Your emergency plan will be unique to your business, so a good place to start is by reaching out to the Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC. The team has decades of combined health and safety experience in various industries from manufacturing to construction to oil and gas.

"We can help tailor an emergency response plan that will meet each business' specific needs," Talbot says. "We also offer training in hazard identification and control, emergency response planning, and workplace inspections, which are all helpful tools for managing emergency response." ■



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## ***SMACNA-BC and SMART Represent at Partners in Progress***

“The Future is Now” was the theme for this year’s event, which brought nearly 200 sheet metal industry professionals together in Orlando, Florida.

By / Jessica Kirby

In February, the Partners in Progress Conference brought together nearly 200 delegates from sheet metal contracting businesses, Locals, and SMACNA chapters across North America. The conference theme, “The Future is Now” spoke to the actions we all need to take to adjust, adapt, and evolve with today’s changing economic and social landscape.

“The Partners in Progress Conference is a unique opportunity to network with peers, and learn to navigate any storm we face,” said Mike Coleman, SMART International general president, in the opening address he shared with SMACNA President Carol Duncan. “It represents our shared vision to build a resilient, professional, and capable industry that can meet any demands.”

Duncan shared a parallel message focused on the qualities of a healthy, enduring partnership. “We must foster transparency, dialogue, and mutual respect,” she said. “That is the way forward toward an intentional, accountable, aligned vision for our industry.”

Coleman and Duncan touched on several collaborative initiatives—current and pending—that the organizations are working on to better the industry for all.

Labor and management support for infrastructure and megaproject work is one example. “These are positive for our industry but also bring challenges,” Duncan said. “We will need to embrace these collaboratively and remain focused on our mutual interests.”

The BE4ALL Committee updates included Bias and Belonging Training for leaders and organizations; release of the Rapid Response Protocol for SMACNA, SMART, and the ITI; menstrual kits for members; and cultural events calendars, which list days of importance and observance for a cross-cultural workforce.

All of these initiatives are building connection and trust in the industry—cornerstones of a healthy partnership.

“We see eye to eye on 90% of the issues,” Coleman said. “The other 10% is in our heads. We need to be open-minded, honest, and trustworthy, because trust is lost in buckets but regained in drops.”

Duncan spoke to legislation in the United States and Canada aimed at fostering diversity in the workplace and urged all members to speak up against injustices. “When we choose to remain silent, we betray our bedrock,” she said.



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A packed schedule of powerful keynote speakers and general session presenters delivered a robust program in support of the messaging Coleman and Duncan shared. Victoria Labalme, best-selling author and Hall of Fame Speaker introduced leadership lessons from her theatre background to help organizations lead with noble intentions.

“Leadership happens in every scene,” she said. “You have to find your throughline—your driving force—that guides your behaviour and helps you stay focused on the real intentions of leadership—service, education, sharing, and help.”

Dushaw Hockett, founder and executive director of Safe Places for the Advancement of Community and Equity (SPACES) initiated a conversation about partnership and its deeper meaning. “The ingredients for an effective partnership are: be clear about the ‘why’, identify the right partners, challenge your preconceived notions of others, and build relationships of trust and collaboration,” he said. “Understand and build the three dimensions of trust: competency, reliability, and sincerity.”

Stephen English, leadership expert, shared several key strategies for developing situationally suitable leadership. “Those who embody more of the democratic leadership style showcase a remarkable ability to build consensus, even amidst differing opinions,” he said. “When leaders embrace a collaborative approach, recognizing the value of each member’s contribution,

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a culture of openness and shared responsibility emerges. This, in turn, paves the way for accelerated progress and innovation.”

And for the week’s final presentation, Kevin Brown, author, speaker, and unbelievably motivating individual, told the story of his son’s personal and emotional growth as a human being through his interactions at Disney and with a server in a café who chose empathy, curiosity, and commitment to demonstrate her heroism. “The heroes who transformed my life are people just like you,” he says. “People who were willing to use their gifts and abilities to serve others at a high level.”

Summing up an engaging three days, Duncan and Coleman took to the stage with closing remarks. Duncan asked, “What’s next? We are not divided by our differences but propelled by our common goals. There may be challenging days ahead, but there is strength in teams, guided by trust in the collective. Let’s move forward with the spirit of trust and goodwill and a shared purpose. Let’s embark on this next phase of our journey with enthusiasm.”

“We are better together,” Coleman said. “That has been obvious this week. What we do today will determine the next years in the industry. From job creation legacy to expanding inclusion, we have a chance to add to the signatory contractor base for generations to come. If we take advantage of the opportunities today, we can change the lives of workers for generations. I believe that is because of all of you on the labour and management sides who have committed to doing the hard work.”

Eleven SMACNA-BC and Local 280 members represented British Columbia at Partners in Progress this year. From SMACNA-BC, Executive Director Jeremy Hallman; Past-president Mark Kuelle; and Directors Dan Taillefer and Phil McDonald attended, along with Local 280’s Business Manager and FST, Troy Clutchey; Organizer, Steve Davis; Business Representative Owin Baxter, Executive Board member James Plett, Apprentice Liaison Elizabeth Moses; and Trustees Lorin Leonard and Avery Martins. ■



## SMACNA-BC Meetings and Events

- June 11** – Board of Directors Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- June 25** – Joint Conference Board Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- July 1** – Canada Day • SMACNA-BC office closed
- July 9** – Board of Directors Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- August 5** – BC Day • SMACNA-BC office closed
- September 2** – Labour Day • SMACNA-BC office closed
- September 10** – Board of Directors Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- September 13** – 39th Annual Golf Classic SMACNA-BC • 1 pm shotgun start, Northview Golf & Country Club
- September 19** – 2024 Chapter Education Program • “Enabling Success - Creating Alignment Between Field and Office” with Stephane McShane, Civic Hotel, Surrey
- September 19** – Membership Meeting • Civic Hotel, Surrey
- September 24** – Joint Conference Board Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- September 30** – Truth & Reconciliation Day • SMACNA-BC office closed
- October 8** – Board of Directors Meeting • 4 pm, SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- October 14** – Thanksgiving • SMACNA-BC office closed
- October 22** – Joint Conference Board Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- October 27–30** – SMACNA National Conference • Palm Desert, California
- November 11** – Remembrance Day • SMACNA-BC office closed
- November 12** – Board of Directors Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- November 21** – Membership Meeting • Civic Hotel, Surrey
- November 26** – Joint Conference Board Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- November 29** – Christmas Party • Pan Pacific Hotel, Vancouver
- December 10** – Board of Directors Meeting • SMACNA-BC Boardroom
- December 25** – Christmas Day • SMACNA-BC office closed
- December 26** – Boxing Day • SMACNA-BC office closed

## CLOUD ACCOUNTING: ELEVATE YOUR NUMBERS

As accountants, we're used to working in the past. Reporting on historical information, such as financial statements or tax returns, is highly relevant to our clients due to its use in critical instances like bank financing and creating benchmarks on operations. That said, if you're a business owner or decision maker, you also want real-time information that empowers you to make informed financial decisions—anytime and anywhere.

Enter cloud accounting. In the past decade or so, cloud-based accounting software has made a sizeable impact on the accounting industry, empowering businesses to acquire up-to-the-minute data whenever and wherever they need it. If you're thinking this sounds like something you and your business could benefit from, here's a few more reasons why you should consider moving your accounting services to the cloud.

### Document Management and Organization

Cloud-based software solutions are like Swiss Army knives for your business; they do so much more than simply storing information off-site. Take audits, for example. Cloud accounting neatly packages all the documents required for a successful audit, organizing them in a more accessible format that makes your auditors' lives much easier. And for small businesses, forget about stuffing your office with piles of paperwork—cloud



By Amy Duncan, CPA, CGA

storage saves space and keeps your records safe and sound for a reasonable fee.

### Data Protection

Most cloud-based platforms offer comprehensive security features that can be a literal lifesaver for your business. These systems give you the ability to manage user access and permissions, ensuring only authorized individuals can access sensitive financial information. They also offer built-in disaster recovery plans, storing your data on secure, remote servers that are often situated in multiple locations. This ensures your financial data is safe from natural or digital disasters like fires, floods, or power surges, and can be quickly restored from the cloud in an emergency.

It also goes without saying that modern, reputable cloud accounting platforms invest heavily in their product's cybersecurity. In addition to using state-of-the-art encryption and firewalls, these companies employ monitoring teams that will flag potential issues and raise alarms at the first sign of suspicious activity or attempts to access your data.

### Systems Integration

Integration is the name of the game when it comes to cloud accounting. These platforms are designed to seamlessly connect with various other business tools and systems, maximizing the automation and accuracy of your financial processes. One significant integration feature is the ability to link your bank account directly to the software. This integration enables automatic import of transactions, eliminating the tedious task of manual data entry and making bank reconciliations a breeze.

Cloud accounting platforms also recognize your need for flexibility, especially when making payments to vendors or invoicing customers. As such, they offer the ability to incorporate electronic billing capabilities directly into your systems. From one platform, you can send out invoices via email, take online payments, complete payroll, and even issue payments to vendors. Regular software updates mean these platforms are pulling in the most recent tax rates and information, keeping your payments accurate and your operations compliant without the need for purchasing annual updates.

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# Expanded to Meet Industry Needs

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## CHOOSE THE RIGHT INSULATION FOR MANAGING DUCT EFFICIENCY

Air ducts are at the heart of a mechanical system's efficiency, productivity, and indoor air quality. Properly managing air duct efficiency is essential for thermal performance, maintenance control, uniform heating and cooling, and preventing damaging condensation. Maintaining a fiber-free, particulate-free air stream is equally important for many facilities and their occupants. Closed-cell, fiber-free elastomeric duct liner provides proven, safe, and durable protection, with the added benefit of noise reduction that external wraps don't have.

The proper selection and installation of mechanical insulation on air ducts and their related systems is critical to the outcome of a successful project. Installers, engineers, and architects should consider a variety of factors when choosing insulation, including building codes, specific application challenges, material capability, installer training, as well as time and budget constraints. Understanding your options for insulation materials will help provide the best solution for your application.

Many resources exist to ensure the best install for a product based on manufacturer recommendations from application manuals and online resources. However, project managers should consider available installer training programs like those available from manufacturers when selecting insulation for air ducts. A well-trained crew means the material gets installed quickly and correctly the first time, leading to fewer callbacks and maintenance headaches. Understanding best practices and learning installation tips, like stirring, not shaking adhesive cans, compression fit of material or how to best prep surfaces to be clean and dry, will always provide the best substrate and help a project run smoothly.

Ease of installation is another consideration when insulating air ducts. Self-adhering and fire & smoke/self-adhering have the benefit of an advanced pressure-sensitive adhesive system that helps eliminate gluing time and installation labour. Both are engineered to safeguard IAQ, attenuate HVAC noise, and reduce energy loss when used to line or wrap HVAC ductwork. Lining or wrapping ducts will result in more comfortable occupant spaces, reduced energy costs, and quieter indoor environments.

Another option that contractors appreciate is a highly conformable, acoustical insulation duct liner, engineered for factory application by sheet-metal fabricators using automated coil lines. Ideal for schools, hospitals, hotels, commercial and public buildings, it is designed for automated applications using water-based adhesives in accordance with SMACNA pinning and spacing guidelines, or unpinned applications using the proper specified adhesive.

Consider self-adhering and fire & smoke self-adhering insulation with antimicrobial product protection to prevent the growth of



By Katie McFadden

mold and mildew on the duct insulation. It can be cleaned and sanitized like any hard surface material, potentially saving facilities valuable remediation resources in the future.

Offering coverage that meets the needs of today's market is important. Whether you are the mechanical engineer, the insulation contractor, or an insulation distributor, choose an insulation manufacturer that offers a flexible, effective solution, no matter the job type, equipment, or level of performance.

*Katie McFadden is Demand Generation Manager & Application Specialist with Armacell Canada. Armacell offers AP/ArmaFlex SA (Self Adhering) and AP/ArmaFlex FS SA (Fire & Smoke/Self-Adhering), both of which are made with Microban® antimicrobial product protection. Armacell offers easy to access digital tools at [armacell.us/solutions](http://armacell.us/solutions) and 10- or 15-year limited warranties, giving specifiers, contractors, and distributors peace of mind that the product is backed by Armacell's 70 years of industry expertise. ■*



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# ENSURING CHILD SAFETY AND ENCROACHING CITY PROPERTY

As can be expected, parents are naturally concerned about the safety of their children. In the recent case of *White Rock (City) v Mashiana*, 2023 BCSC 2352, two homeowners attempted to encroach upon City property under the guise of parental concern.

### The Facts

The Homeowners in this case own a residence located in White Rock, BC, the lands to the west of which are owned by the City.

The Homeowners purchased their home in 2020 and recently thereafter, erected a series of retaining walls, stairs, fencing, a gravel area, and a concrete pad for parking. The Homeowners never obtained any permits from the City for the construction of these structures.

When the City became aware of this issue in 2022, the City sent the Homeowners a letter requesting that the retaining wall (which had been constructed on top of a sanitary main) and the gravel (which had covered the storm sewer utility hole) be removed. Rather than removing these structures, the Homeowners “doubled down” and installed additional structures, including fencing and gates.

The City sent several additional letters to the Homeowners requesting that the structures be removed. However, the Homeowners did not respond to these letters.

The Homeowners contend that they installed the retaining walls and fencing out of concern for the safety of their young children due to a steep slope on the west side of their property.

The Homeowners did not dispute they erected structures on City land without a permit. However, they argued that there was no harm caused by their structures and that the Court ought to exercise its discretion to refuse the City’s request.



By Liam M. Robertson, Kuhn LLP

### The Decision

The Judge found that the evidence was overwhelming that the Homeowners had erected structures on City property without any authorization. There was no legal basis for the encroachments on City land. No permits were applied for, no permits were granted, and the City made several requests for the Homeowners to demolish and remove the structures once the City was made aware of them.

Instead of complying with these demands, the Homeowners built additional structures to increase the size of their home by simply taking over the City’s property.

The evidence is that the Homeowners were made aware that their structures were unauthorized, but continued to put up more structures. The City acted promptly to advise the Homeowners of the encroachments once it was made aware of the structures.

The reasons put forth by the Homeowners as to why they put up the structures do not absolve them of liability. If the Homeowners had concerns about safety, they ought to have brought this to the attention of the City.

### Lessons Learned

1. If you try to encroach upon City property and build permanent or semi-permanent structures, the costs associated with constructing these structures may be lost in the event the City is given authorization to remove the structures; and
2. Safety concerns will likely not allow you to, unbeknownst to the City, encroach upon City property. ■

*This article was written by Liam M. Robertson, lawyer, who practices in construction law with the law firm of Kuhn LLP. This article is only intended as a guide and cannot cover every situation. It is important to get legal advice for specific situations. If you have any questions or comments about this case or other construction law matters, please contact us at 604.864.8877 (Abbotsford) or 604.684.8668 (Vancouver).*

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INDUSTRY NEWS

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**SMACNA NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION COLLEGE OF FELLOWS  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

SMACNA-BC members are reminded that SMACNA College of Fellows Scholarships are open to students seeking to further their education by attending an accredited four-year university or college. Applications for the 2024-25 school year are now closed, but Craig Benson, SMACNA-BC honorary life member, reminded delegates at the 2024 AGM and Convention in Penticton that the College of Fellows only received two applications from BC this round. He encourages all contractors to review the requirements and save the date (applications are typically due at the end of February) for the 2025-26 school year.

To earn the scholarship, the applicant may pursue any course of study; however, it is hoped that a career in a field related to the sheet metal industry will be considered.

Applicants must be SMACNA contractors, employees of SMACNA contractors, SMACNA Fellows, employees of local SMACNA Chapters, employees of National SMACNA, SMACNA National Associate Members, or immediate family members of any of the aforementioned. Scholarship opportunities are open to full-time students entering their first year as well as current full-time undergraduate students.

College of Fellows Scholarships will be in the amount of \$4,000 per academic year not to exceed \$16,000 for four years of undergraduate study.

Selection is based on educational goals as stated by the applicants, academic achievement, and involvement in school-related extracurricular and community activities. Applicant must have demonstrated leadership potential and be of good character. Financial need is not a prerequisite.

Applications must be postmarked or include email transmission date by the February due date. Keep an eye on [smacna.org/about/about-smacna/scholarships](http://smacna.org/about/about-smacna/scholarships) or watch your email for the next round of applications. Applications should be addressed to:

SMACNA College of Fellows Scholarship Program, 4201 Lafayette Center Dr., Chantilly, VA 20151-1219

Email: [cof\\_scholarship@smacna.org](mailto:cof_scholarship@smacna.org)

**TECHNOLOGY**

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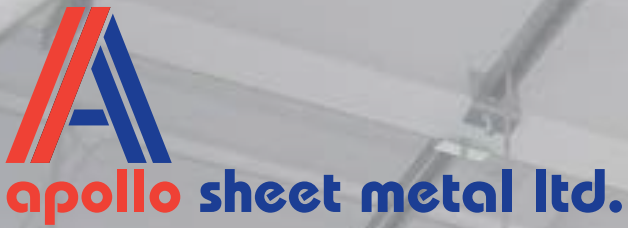
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At DMCL, we've had the opportunity to work with over 1,000 clients who have successfully made the switch to cloud accounting. Our experienced team can support you through the implementation of cloud-based software, assist with reconciliations and even be your off-site virtual cloud accountants. If you think cloud accounting is a good fit for you and your business, reach out to your DMCL advisor to see how you can get started. ■

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